

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings, and all prior versions, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. – 28. (Cancelled).

29. (New) A catalytic material comprising a metal catalytic component and a catalyst carrier for supporting said metal catalytic component; wherein the catalyst carrier contains carbon and contains atoms that have formed covalent bonds with said metal catalytic component, and wherein the carbon is carbon material selected from the group consisting of carbon black, graphite, carbon nanofibers and carbon nanotubes.

30. (New) A catalytic material comprising a metal catalytic component and a catalyst carrier which comprises carbon; wherein said catalyst carrier has a structure in which part of the carbon atoms is replaced with atoms that have formed covalent bonds with said metal catalytic component, and wherein the carbon is carbon material selected from the group consisting of carbon black, graphite, carbon nanofibers and carbon nanotubes.

31. (New) A catalytic material comprising a metal catalytic component and a catalyst carrier for supporting said metal catalytic component; wherein said catalyst carrier contains carbon and at least one member selected from the group consisting of nitrogen atoms, oxygen atoms, phosphorus atoms, and sulfur atoms, and wherein the carbon is carbon material selected from the group consisting of carbon black, graphite, carbon nanofibers and carbon nanotubes.